

## Connecting with God

by J. Gottman

Since Lent is meant to be a time of personal reflection, I've been doing a lot of that lately. When I take the time to be in prayer and just listen to God's gentle leading I am in awe of what I receive. The past several weeks have tended to be watershed experiences of great excitement and some trepidation for the incredible ministry and responsibility we have as a congregation.

First let me speak of the great excitement and energy and I feel. Our church has been moving forward consistently and over our 160 plus years of ministry there have been spurts of great movement and some times of stagnation. My sense is that as we listen to God's leading we are going to find ourselves not having spurts comprised of highs and lows but experiencing a consistency of steadily growing momentum. Here are some reasons that point to this steady growth. First, we are no longer a church that plans from week to week. Our church is planning months in advance in almost every area. Worship planning and sermon series are thought out in advance so that we offer quality worship that praises God. Second, our congregation is working to become a big family by creating intergenerational activities and ministries. Our all church fellowship nights offer great opportunities to meet others that normally we might not. The real jewel lately has been our Secret Pal program. Upwards of twenty kids anxiously rush to the Secret Pal board to get their weekly letters from a "secret" adult pal. Many parents have caught their kids hiding just out of sight to see who puts a letter on the board. Isn't that moving? Third, I need to lift up and give praise to our leadership. Our ministry teams (church committees) are meeting on a regular basis to plan and help our church to grow into a well oiled faith filled, spiritually sensitive place for all people. Fourth, our church is blessed to have a membership that is praying for our current ministry and wants us to be relevant not only to our long time members but also to those who don't know anything about God. All the while we are becoming more flexible to deal with emergencies as they arise.

There is some trepidation, too. When congregations begin listening to God, unexpected ministry can take place. God may lead us into foreign territory. The words unexpected and foreign can bring about feelings of uneasiness. We may find ourselves saying, "We've never done this before." "What if we take this leap of faith and it doesn't work?" "I agree that is a great idea, but where will the money come from to support a ministry such as this?" "What about me? Where do I fit in?" "Things are moving too fast - slow down!"

In the mix of God continually working in our midst there is a way to balance new ministry opportunities and work through the questions that face any group in times of exciting potential and uneasy trepidation. All things are possible when we remember to start any conversation, critique, or criticism with prayer. The next step is for all of us to listen to God and one another - really listen. Listen to all ideas. Pray about them some more. Ask more questions? Read your Bible for similar situations where God's people faced something for which they were unaccustomed. Then pray some more.

Ultimately the decision has to be for each one to look at their gifts and pray about how best their God given gifts can work with where God is leading. I believe God provides what we need in our individual lives and most definitely God provides in our congregational life when we turn our lives over to the one who is really in control.

See you this Sunday and invite your friends!  
Blessings and Peace,

### Missed a Sunday?

Sermons are available online at  
[fccpaducah.org](http://fccpaducah.org)

## In Our Prayers

### Weekly Health Concerns

**Jack Chapman**, Parkview Nursing & Rehab

**Pat Cownie**, 7040 Contest Rd.

**Nan Russell**, 200 Myrna Dr.

**Ann Borgia**, 650 College Ave. Apt. 69

**Brenda Murphy**, 4300 Westchester Ln.

### Sympathy

. . . to **Terry Lemon** and his family in the death of his aunt this past week.

## 40 Hours of Prayer Vigil Sign Up Begins this Sunday

In the past, First Christian has held a prayer vigil that begins on Good Friday and continues through Easter Sunday. The prayer vigil is a way for people of faith to remember and wait just as the first disciples did for the resurrection. Each individual or family is asked to take a one hour time block spending time in prayer and scripture reading. Participants will keep the vigil in their own homes. Materials will be provided to help guide you in your time of prayer. Be sure to sign up this Sunday for your prayer time.

## New Tower Premiers Next Week

The new, larger format *Tower* will include more news and photos and be produced on a monthly basis instead of weekly. For information to be included in the March 26 issue, we must receive it by **Monday, March 23**, at 9:00 a.m. As always *The Tower* is available on our website [fccpaducah.org](http://fccpaducah.org).

## Memorial Gifts

In memory of **Dorothy Phillips**

Joyce Nunnally.

In memory of **Juanita Phillips**

CWF Group 1, Dorothy Crownrich.

In memory of **Oval Crenshaw**

John & Martha Barker.

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, March 22

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:45 a.m.—Worship & Communion

### Monday, March 23

6:30 p.m.—Elder's Meeting; *Conference Room*

### Tuesday, March 24

6:00 p.m.—Cabinet Meeting; *Conference Room*

### Wednesday, March 25

4:00 p.m.—K-5 Kids Groups

6:00 p.m.—All Church Dinner; *Fellowship Hall*

7:00 p.m.—Prayer Service; *Sanctuary*

### Thursday, March 26

6:30 p.m.—Choir Practice

7:00 p.m.—Neighborhood Association Mgt.

### Friday, March 27

5:00 p.m.—Heartland Cares Board Retreat

### Saturday, March 28

8:30 a.m.—Lay Theology School; Upper Level

9:00 a.m.—Heartland Cares Board Retreat

*Lower Level*

10:00 a.m.—Take A Stand Against Child Abuse

*K-Mart Parking Lot*

## Easter Egg Helpers Needed

FCC's annual Easter Egg hunt will be held **Saturday, April 11th** from 10 a.m. until noon. Please bring pre-filled plastic Easter eggs in preparation for the hunt to the church office. Volunteers are also needed to assist with the activities and to hide the eggs. Contact **Miranda Peterson** for more information at [mirandabees@gmail.com](mailto:mirandabees@gmail.com)

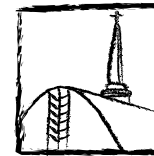
## FCC's Vital Statistics

### Worship Attendance—March 15, 2009

Sunday School	70
Worship	184

### Financial Report—Jan 1, - March 20, 2009

Income to date	\$72,866
Expenses to date	\$83,186
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>(\$10,320)</b>



# THE TOWER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH • PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

## Come. See. Discover.

### All Church Dinner

**Wednesday, March 25, at 6 p.m.**

Remember to sign up this Sunday for the monthly All-Church Dinner. The Seekers Sunday school class is providing BBQ, bread and beverages. They ask that you sign up to bring potato salad, baked beans, slaw or dessert. The Building Committee is in charge of the program and clean up after the dinner.

### Monthly Prayer Service

You are invited to our monthly prayer service after the All Church Dinner on March 25th. This month along with our prayers of concern and joy we will lift up those involved in the Last Supper portrayal being held on Maundy Thursday, April 9, at 7 p.m. We are thankful for the willingness of so many to help us better understand Jesus' call of his apostles and their role in the Easter story.

If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please contact Mariann Lankton (575-9810) providing her with the person's name, address and prayer concern or joy. Each person included in our prayers will receive a letter letting them know they were and will continue to be in our prayers.

[mlankton@fccpaducah.org](mailto:mlankton@fccpaducah.org)

### This Sunday at FCC

**9:30 a.m.**

Sunday School

**10:45 a.m.**

Worship & Communion

**Sermon Series:**

*The Disciples Next Door*

**Sermon:**

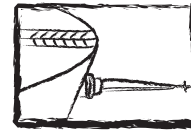
"Philip and Nathanael"

### Reception to Honor Ben Morehead Sunday, March 29

Join us in two weeks as we celebrate Ben Morehead's ministry with our youth and children. Immediately after worship there will be a reception to honor Ben in the fellowship hall. There will be food and the opportunity to share your thanks with Ben for his leadership over the past six years.

### Easter Lilies

Those who wish to provide a lily for decoration of the church on Easter Sunday may sign up at the table in the narthex (near the PCM pantry donations.) They are \$15 each.



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(Disciples of Christ)  
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### Members Serving March 22

**Elders:** Kent Price & Beverly Craig  
**Deacons:** John James, Erin & Ben Morehead, Renee & Steve Tilley, Kelly Nuckols, Jason McHaney (1 Deacon needed)  
**Liturgist:** John Caywood  
**Ushers:** Billy Lanier & Larry Furmann  
**Greeters:** Kent & Julie Price  
**Acolyte:** Tanner Hagood  
**Communion Preparation & Flowers:** Nettie Bingham & Barbara Murphy  
**Communion Clean-Up:** John & Rhonda James  
**Reach Out Communion:** Marj & Chuck Heyduck  
Rhonda & John James  
**Time for Children:** Sue Fletcher  
**Pew Pad Pick-Up (Mar.):** Erin Gottman  
**Elders on Call Mar. 22-28:** Kent Price & Bill Cownie  
**Sunday School Rotation:** Ben Morehead

### Guests in Worship Mar. 15

Andrea & Phil Suiter, Chris & Jennie Rimes, Brent, Marybeth & Abe Taylor, Michael Myrick, Aleta & Ronnie Harris *and others who worship with us regularly.*

### PCM Pantry Report

We are collecting peanut butter this month and our goal is 500 units. To date we have 120. Please remember to bring your peanut butter donations to worship with you Sunday.

*The Tower* is a publication of  
**First Christian Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)  
415 Audubon Dr.,  
Paducah, KY 42001  
Phone (270) 443-8251  
Web site: [fccpaducah.org](http://fccpaducah.org)

**Ministers:** The congregation along with J. Gottman, Mariann Lankton, Phil Justice

**Sunday School—9:30 a.m.**  
[fccpaducah.org](http://fccpaducah.org)

**Worship & Communion—10:45 a.m.**  
Radio Broadcast 1560 WPAD-AM